

From: Hal Widlansky
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 3:23pm
Subject: re: settlement

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the technology community and a user of many Microsoft products, I feel the need to give you feedback on the proposed "settlement" with Microsoft.

First, let me be absolutely clear: I think the proposed settlement is *A JOKE*. It's completely inappropriate, given the facts of the case and the realities of the industry. It does not even begin to address the grievances brought against the company. Given the outcome of the trial and appeal, one would have assumed any settlement would have included SOME sanctions and SOME forced changes in the behavior of the company. It suffers from the same weaknesses as the 1995 settlement, being worded as to apply ONLY to Windows XP. All MS has to do is rename the product next year, and all bets are off. The settlement, as it is currently written, only requires miniscule changes in the way the company was doing business before the trial started and does not begin to address the realities of the monopoly-driven market.

It's clear that whoever negotiated this deal does not understand the technology industry to the extent required. If that's not the case, then the government has suddenly lost interest in punishing the guilty.

Please consider at least giving them a slap on the wrist. The current deal represents more of a pat on the head.

-Hal Widlansky
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